

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended)     An isolated A complement inhibitor polypeptide derived from a haematophagous arthropod that inhibits the classical complement pathway and the alternative complement pathway by inhibiting cleavage of C5 by classical and alternative C5 convertases, wherein the isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide is a protein having at least 90% identity to a protein comprising amino acids 19 to 168 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
2. (canceled).
3. (canceled).
4. (canceled).
5. (canceled).
6. (currently amended)     The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 1 which inhibits cleavage of C5 by binding to C5.
7. (currently amended)     The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 6 complexed with C5.
8. (canceled).
9. (currently amended)     The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 1 wherein said haematophagous arthropod is a tick.
10. (currently amended)     The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 9, wherein said tick is *Ornithodoros moubata*.
11. (currently amended)     The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 10, comprising amino acids 19 to 168 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
12. (currently amended)     The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 10, comprising amino acids 1 to 168 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. (currently amended) The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide that inhibits the classical ~~complement pathway~~ and the alternative complement ~~pathways pathway~~, wherein said complement inhibitor is:
- a) a protein comprising amino acids 19 to 168 or amino acids 1 to 168 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
  - b) a homologue of a protein as defined in a) having at least 95% ~~90%~~ identity thereto; or
  - c) an active fragment of said a protein as defined in a) above, wherein said active fragment comprises six cysteine residues that are spaced relative to each other at a distance of 32 amino acids apart, 62 amino acids apart, 28 amino acids apart, 1 amino acid apart, and 21 amino acids apart as arranged from the amino terminus to the carboxyl terminus, wherein said active fragment ~~that~~ inhibits cleavage of C5 by classical and alternative C5 convertases.
14. (currently amended) The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide that inhibits cleavage of C5 by a C5 convertase, wherein said complement inhibitor is:
- a) a protein comprising amino acids 19 to 168 or amino acids 1 to 168 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
  - b) a homologue of a protein as defined in a) having at least 95% ~~90%~~ identity thereto; or
  - c) an active fragment of said a protein as defined in a) above, wherein said active fragment comprises six cysteine residues that are spaced relative to each other at a distance of 32 amino acids apart, 62 amino acids apart, 28 amino acids apart, 1 amino acid apart, and 21 amino acids apart as arranged from the amino terminus to the carboxyl terminus, wherein said active fragment ~~that~~ inhibits cleavage of C5 by classical and alternative C5 convertases.
15. (currently amended) The isolated complement inhibitor ~~inhibitor~~ polypeptide according to claim 14 which inhibits cleavage of C5 by direct binding to C5.

16. (currently amended) The isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 15 complexed with C5.
17. (canceled).
18. (currently amended) A fusion protein comprising the isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 1 that is genetically or chemically fused to one or more peptides or polypeptides.
19. (currently amended) The fusion protein according to claim 18 wherein said isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide is genetically or chemically fused to a marker domain.
20. (previously presented) The fusion protein according to claim 19 wherein said marker domain is a radiochemical tag.
21. (canceled).
22. (canceled).
23. (canceled).
24. (canceled).
25. (canceled).
26. (canceled).
27. (canceled).
28. (canceled).
29. (currently amended) A composition comprising the isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide according to claim 1; or a fusion protein thereof, ~~or a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said complement inhibitor polypeptide~~, in conjunction with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
30. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 29 further comprising an adjuvant.

31. (canceled).

32. (canceled).

33. (canceled).

34. (canceled).

35. (canceled).

36. (canceled).

37. (canceled).

38. (canceled).

39. (canceled).

40. (canceled).

41. (new)      An active fragment of the isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide of claim 11, wherein said active fragment comprises five cysteine residues that are spaced relative to each other at a distance of 32 amino acids apart, 62 amino acids apart, 28 amino acids apart, and 1 amino acid apart as arranged from the amino terminus to the carboxyl terminus, wherein said active fragment inhibits cleavage of C5 by classical and alternative C5 convertases.

42. (new)      An active fragment of the isolated complement inhibitor polypeptide of claim 11, wherein said active fragment comprises four cysteine residues that are spaced relative to each other at a distance of 32 amino acids apart, 62 amino acids apart, and 28 amino acids apart as arranged from the amino terminus to the carboxyl terminus, wherein said active fragment inhibits cleavage of C5 by classical and alternative C5 convertases.